



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
BUSINESS MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-0074)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montañó, Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio,
Commissioner Barbara Bigby and
Commissioner Donald S. Andrews

Absent: Commissioner Susan Burton

Excused: Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D. and Commissioner Anne S. Hill

Call to Order. (12-5831)

Chairperson Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

**Chairperson Montañó led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a
moment of silence.**

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Approval of the December 12, 2012 Minutes. (12-5832)

On motion of Commissioner Barbara Bigby, seconded by Vice Chairperson Bacio, unanimously carried, the minutes of December 12, 2012 were approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

2. Department Representatives Report's for December 19, 2012.
 - Department of Auditor-Controller
 - Monthly Report

- Department of Children and Family Services
 - Monthly Report
- Internal Services Department
 - Monthly Report
- Department Mental Health
 - Monthly Report
- Probation Department
 - Monthly Report
- Sheriff's Department
 - Monthly Report (12-5833)

Auditor Controller (AC)

Ms. Michele Day, AC, Group Home Ombudsman, distributed copies and reported on the Group Home Hotline Call Activity during the months of October and November as follows:

October 2012

12 Total phone calls:

Referrals	7
Personal Rights	5
Visits/Outreach	5

November 2012

9 Total phone calls:

Referrals	5
Personal Rights	2
Personal	1
Other	1
Visits/Outreach	1

Ms. Day further stated that their main goal for 2013 is to visit as many Group Homes as possible to educate children about the Program available as an independent resource for them in addition to their social workers.

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Patricia Balonos Gonzalez, Children Services Administrator, Out of Home Care Management Division, DCFS, reported that during the period of November 28, 2012 to December 18, 2012, DCFS received nine hotline referrals in the following categories:

- 2 At risk
- 1 Emotional abuse
- 3 General neglect
- 3 Physical abuse

During the same reporting period there were a total of 10 closed referrals in the following categories:

- 1 Emotional abuse
 - Inconclusive
- 4 General neglect
 - 1 Unfounded
 - 3 Evaluated out
 - 1 Substantiated
- 4 Physical abuse
 - 2 unfounded
 - 1 substantiated
 - 1 evaluated out
- 1 At risk
 - Unfounded

Ms. Balonos Gonzalez further reported that Mozell Pennington Group Home has been placed on hold due to major concerns. Ms. Balonos-Gonzalez also informed the Commissioners that she followed-up on Teen's Happy Home and found there was one youth that refused to attend school. Tina Robinson, Executive Director has been working with the youth and will possibly be given educational rights. Additionally, DCFS I-track system is currently out of service and the number of runaways cannot be reported at this time.

Internal Services Department (ISD)

Brian Lear, Building Crafts Superintendent, Internal Services Department (ISD), stated that he had no updates and no new projects to report. Mr. Lear opened the floor to the Commission for questions.

Department of Mental Health (DMH)

There was no representative present to provide a report.

Probation Department (PD)

Ms. Lisa Campbell-Motten, Director of Placement Permanency & Quality Assurance (PD), reported on the status of AWOL incidents for the month of November 2012 as follows:

- **79 AWOLS**
 - **76 Youth**
 - **45 Remain AWOL**
 - **10 Returned to Group Home**
 - **1 Suitable Placement**
 - **18 Juvenile Hall**
 - **2 Camp**

Ms. Campbell-Motten also reported on the number of group home monitoring and investigations in the following categories:

- **4 Child Abuse**
 - **Unfounded**
- **8 Group home investigations**
 - **3 Unfounded**
 - **3 Substantiated**
 - **1 Inconclusive**
 - **1 Pending**
- **Monitoring**
 - **13 Posted**
 - **4 Various stages of approval**
 - **6 Pending posting**

- **Permanency**
 - **3 Potential adoptions**
 - **5 Potential legal guardianships**

Ms. Campbell-Motten further reported the Probation Department has been working in collaboration with DCFS in relation to permanency, and recently a 17 year old youth will be adopted by his aunt and uncle. Probation was able to locate the mother and the youth saw his mother for the first time. After careful consideration the mother decided to relinquish her rights so that the adoption can go forward. She will follow-up with the Commission and invite them to the adoption ceremony.

Sheriff's Department

Mr. Steve Biagine, Sheriff, attended the meeting on behalf of Commander Asmus. Mr. Biagine answered questions posed by the Commissioners, but informed them that he was not equipped with answers to some of the Commissioners inquiries.

Ms. Karen Dalton, Director of Custody Services provided the Commissioners with a full copy and summary sheets of the inmate telephone contract scheduled to expire in 2016. Ms. Dalton also informed the Commissioners that there are numerous methods that can be used to make calls such as: paying a rate of \$1.25 and 15 cents for each additional minute, advance pay, purchasing a phone card, or family can purchase airtime. Additionally, she stated that she is not fully clear on Commissioner Burton issue, however, she will follow-up on the emails sent to Commander Cooper and restore any missing funds.

Chairperson Montaña informed Ms. Dalton that the Inmate Welfare Fund (IWF) Commissioners were invited to attend a SBC meeting and the Commission has not received a response.

Ms. Dalton informed Chairperson Montaña that she spoke with the Chair of the IWF Commission who informed her that he was unable to attend the December 19, 2012 meeting and will arrange to come for a future date however; she will be happy to answer any questions. Chairperson Montaña advised that its best for the IWF Commission to attend a meeting on the first, second, or fourth Wednesday. Chairperson also asked Ms. Dalton to explain the use of funds generated by the IWF Commission.

Continuing her report Ms. Dalton informed the Commissioners that the Inmate Welfare fund generates about \$24 million annually and under California Penal Code 40.25 the Sheriff has the authority to run an operation. However the funds must be solely used for the welfare and benefit of the inmates. Further, Title 15 defines the use of the funds. Also funds are used for staffing, daily newspapers, and religious materials.

Currently the fund is paying for educational and vocational programs. The IWF Commission meets the fourth Friday of each month. Recently IWF Commissioners approved two items that are in the jail master plan, the Farm Program and the Educational Program involving two Charter schools.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

3. Chairperson's Report on various items for December 19, 2012. (12-5834)

Chairperson Montaña reported that she attended the December 18, 2012 Board of Supervisors meeting where the People's Civilian Review Board addressed the Board during the status report relating to violence in the Los Angeles County jail facilities and the Citizens' Commission on Jail Violence's recommendations.

Chairperson Montaña also shared the following articles with the Commissioners:

Los Angeles Times:

- Deputy is Accused of Assaulting Two Inmates (December 14, 2012)
- Handling of Informant Probed (December 18, 2012)
- Handling of FBI Informant Probed (December 19, 2012)

Daily Breeze:

- Baca Targets Summer For Jail Reforms (December 18, 2012)

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

4. Treasurer's Report for December 19, 2012. (12-5835)

Vice Chairperson Frank Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$600.96.

5. Staff Report on Correspondence Received and Department Representative Reports for December 19, 2012. (12-5836)

There was no report presented.

6. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented on December 19, 2012. (12-5837)

In Compliance:

- **Vice Chairperson Bacio visited Heritage Group Home - Page 21 #2, on December 18, 2012.**

Out of Compliance:

- **Commissioners Bigby and Hill visited Children Are Our Future - Page 7 #4, on December 18, 2012 and reported the carpet in the bedroom is stained, the bathroom has no towel racks or shower drain cover, the window screen in one of the bedrooms had a hole, and the toilet in the third bathroom was stopped up and smelling.**
- **Chairperson Montano and Commissioner Andrews visited Life Circles Group Home - Page 24 #4, on December 18, 2012 and reported that the bedroom furniture needs to be replaced, the closets were messy, clothes were on the floor, new chest of drawers were needed, there were no soup spoons, no teaspoons, the vehicle was in bad condition and needed four new tires, and there was roach spray in the bathroom.**

Unavailable:

- **Vice Chairperson Bacio visited Heritage Group Home - Page 21 #2, on December 13, 2012 and reported no one was at home.**
- **Commissioners Bigby and Hill visited Children Are Our Future - Page 7 #4, on December 14, 2012 and reported no one was at home.**

7. Commissioners Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from December 13, 2012 to December 18, 2012. (12-5838)

- **During the reporting period the following Facility was reported as**

in satisfactory condition:

- **Chairperson Montaño and Commissioner Andrews visited San Fernando Branch on December 17, 2012.**

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

8. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (12-5839)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

9. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (12-5840)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

10. Adjournment for the meeting of December 19, 2012. (12-5841)

There being no further business, the meeting of December 19, 2012 was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.